(iii) Shortages in fire fighting equipment are being made up and defective equipment repaired.

(iv) Unserviceable ammunition is being disposed of on priority.

(v) Allotment of additional funds for creation of more storage accommodation, for shifting ammunition presently stored on open plinths under canvas to Explosive Stores Houses.

Testing of interception and destruction capabilities during Poorna Vijay Exercise

518. SHRI K. KALAVBENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has tested and achieved the capability during Poorna Vijay Exercises in Rajasthan of interception and destruction of enemy aircrafts equipped with nuclear weapons;

(b) whether similar exercises were also held in Punjab region; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Interception of hostile aircraft is not related to the types of weapons it carries. The Indian Air Force has the capability to intercept intruders violating Indian airspace.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Indian Air Force has been practising these interceptions routinely.

Accidents of Fighter Planes

519. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a MIG-29 aircraft crashed in the fields of Ajnoha village in Hoshiarpur district on 4th July, 2001;

(b) if so, the number of fighter planes crashed during the last three years;

(c) whether the inquiry instituted by Government in each air crash has since been made public;

(d) whether the steps taken to check crashes of MIG fighter planes have failed to achieve any results; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total of 54 fighter planes crashed during the last three years.

(c) The documents of Courts of Inquiry are confidential and can not be made public. However, causes of the accidents are made public in each case, once the inquiry is finalised.

(d) No, sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Recruitment in Defence Organisations in Jabalpur

†520. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a provision has been made for new recruitment in defence organisations located at Jabalpur;

(b) if so, whether the recruitment would be made a lower level also; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the recruitments being made in other defence organisations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Agreement for software licences without tender

521. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Karodon rupayaon ke software ghotale se raksha mantralya mein tehelka" appearing in the Navbharat Times dated 5th May, 2001.

(b) if so, Government's views and reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government accepted an agreement with Armies Soft

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.